

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 02182 041338Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

OPR-01 SY-04 A-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 PRS-01 IO-10 L-02 /080 W

----- 019793

R 041115Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9212

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USSAG NIP THAI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2182

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS AEMR CB FR US

SUBJECT: FRENCH EMBASSY ENCOURAGING VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE OF
NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS

REF: PHNOM PENH 2102

1. FRENCH CHARGE PAVEC ADVISED ME TODAY THAT HIS EMBASSY
WILL BEGIN TO NOTIFY ALL MEMBERS OF THE RESIDENT FRENCH
COMMUNITY (WHO NUMBER ABOUT 1,500 ALTOGETHER) THIS AFTER-
NOON THAT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE FOR PERSONS WHOSE PRESENCE
IN CAMBODIA IS NOT ESSENTIAL, PARTICULARLY WOMEN AND
CHILDREN, TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR EARLY DEPARTURE FROM
THE COUNTRY. PAVEC EXPLAINED THAT FRENCH TECHNICAL AS-
SISTANCE PERSONNEL, WHO ARE MAINLY TEACHERS, WILL BE
PERMITTED TO TAKE UP SAFEHAVEN IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
FOR THE TIME BEING, AND IF THE EMERGENCY LASTS, MAY BE
TRANSFERED TO OTHER COUNTRIES. PAVEC NOTED THAT THE
CITY HAS BEEN UNDER ROCKET ATTACK FOR MORE THAN A MONTH
ALREADY, AND HE REFERRED TO THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 02182 041338Z

PRECARIOUS MILITARY SITUATION, FOR EXAMPLE THE SUCCESS-

FUL ATTACKS AGAINST THE MEKONG RIVER CONVOYS, ALL OF WHICH ARE WELL-KNOW TO EVERYONE IN PHNOM PENH.

2. PAVEC SAID HE EXPECTED ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF THE FRENCH COMMUNITY WOULD DEPART AT THIS TIME. HE THOUGHT THE FRENCH LYCEE WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO FUNCTION, ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE PRIMARY CLASSES MIGHT HAVE TO BE ABOLISHED OWING TO LACK OF TEACHING STAFF. CALMETTE HOSPITAL STAFF WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED, HE SAID (WHICH IS REASSURING FOR US). HE HOPED PRIMARILY TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF HIS COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY BY MOVING OUT AS MANY WOMEN AND CHILDREN AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS CONNECTION HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRENCH CANNOT CALL IN AN AIRLIFT IF THE SITUATION SUDDENLY DETERIORATED, AND IT WAS THEREFORE ONLY PRUDENT TO REDUCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THE NUMBER OF CITIZENS FOR WHICH THE FRENCH EMBASSY MUST BE RESPONSIBLE.

3. PAVEC INFORMED ME THAT HE WOULD CALL ON THE GKR FOREIGN MINISTER THIS AFTERNOON TO ADVISE HIM OF THIS DECISION OFFICIALLY. HE READILY AGREED THAT THERE WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE AN ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON THE MORALE OF THE KHMER, AND THAT OTHER FOREIGN COMMUNITIES MIGHT DECIDE TO IMITATE THE FRENCH.

4. PAVEC ASKED IF I HAD ANY "OBJECTION" TO THE COURSE OF ACTION HE PROPOSED TO TAKE. MY RESPONSE WAS THAT I GREATLY APPRECIATED RECEIVING THIS ADVANCE NOTICE FROM HIM PERSONALLY AND DIRECTLY, BUT IT WAS NOT FOR ME TO OBJECT OR OTHERWISE TAKE A POSITION ON A MATTER WHICH HIS MISSION AND COMMUNITY, LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF. PAVEC THANKED ME ESPECIALLY FOR THE MILITARY BRIEFINGS WE HAVE BEEN GIVING TO HIS MILITARY ATTACHE. (THE LATTER HAS MET TWICE WITH THE DATT IN RECENT DAYS AND WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HAVING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT TO POCHENTONG AND THE MEKONG RIVER LIFELINE TO THE CAPITAL.)

5. COMMENT: IT IS A TRUISM THAT EVERYONE IN PHNOM PENH KEEPS ONE EYE TRAINED ON WHAT THE AMERICANS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 02182 041338Z

DOING, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE HAVE THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE TRUE NATURE OF THE MILITARY/SECURITY SITUATION PREVAILING. NEVERTHELESS, WHAT THE FRENCH COMMUNITY DOES IS OF SIGNAL IMPORTANCE BECAUSE OF ITS SIZE AND THE TRADITIONAL ROLE PLAYED BY THE FRENCH IN THIS COUNTRY FOR THE PAST CENTURY. THE FRENCH EMBASSY'S DECISION WILL BE INTERPRETED AS CONFIRMATION THAT THE SECURITY/MILITARY SITUATION IS DETERIORATING, ALTHOUGH

THOSE WHO THINK ABOUT THE MATTER WILL BE AWARE THAT
THIS PARTIAL EVACUATION IS OCCURRING LATER IN THE
DRY SEASON THIS YEAR THAN IT DID LAST YEAR, AND ONLY
AFTER HUNDREDS OF ROCKETS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST
THE CAPITAL FOR MORE THAN A MONTH. WE THINK THE
DECISIVE FACTOR IN PAVEC'S DECISION IS THE UNCERTAINTY
OF WHETHER THE MEKONG WILL REMAIN OPEN TO NAVIGATION.
WE WILL KEEP THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ADDRESSEES
ADVISED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN
COMMUNITY REACTION TO THE CURRENT SITUATION.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, POLITICAL SITUATION, EVACUATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM02182
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750040-0716
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750274/aaaacomy.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 2102
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH EMBASSY ENCOURAGING VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE OF NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS
TAGS: PINS, AEMR, CB, FR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006